



City of San Diego
City of Imperial Beach
City of Coronado
City of Del Mar
City of Solana Beach
City of Encinitas
City of Carlsbad
City of Oceanside

July 3, 2020

Dear City Managers:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership protecting San Diego County communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

This holiday weekend, beach access in Southern California, from Santa Barbara to Orange County, is either restricted or closed due to very concerning increases in COVID-19 hospitalizations and anticipated increases in visitation and social mixing in and around coastal areas. Such increased visitation and social mixing at indoor retail, hotels, and other indoor places of commerce significantly increases the risk of spread of COVID-19.

At the time of writing, beaches under the jurisdiction of local governments within San Diego County are the *only* beaches without visitation restrictions throughout all of Southern California, and therefore are attracting thousands of residents from outside your coastal communities and creating significant potential for disease transmission, particularly in crowded restaurants, bars, retail, and hotels. San Diego County was today added to the County Monitoring list because of elevated disease transmission over the past 14-days.

To protect the public health of San Diegans and reduce the high potential transmission of this deadly disease in San Diego coastal businesses, we write to request that municipal governments *do not open beach parking lots* for the July 4th holiday weekend.

By keeping parking lots closed, we can help limit beach access in San Diego to San Diegans only, to protect the health of residents and reduce the high likelihood of disease transmission in surrounding San Diego restaurants, bars, and

businesses. Closure of beach parking lots could discourage day-trips from other communities.

The State Department of Parks and Recreation has already shifted to a closure of all San Diego County State Beach Parking Lots on a temporary basis. These parking lot closures take effect tomorrow morning, July 4 and re-open on July 6. Accordingly, parking lots for beaches operated by local governments in San Diego County are also requested to institute parking lots closures on July 4 and July 5 to limit the gathering of visitors that create unsafe conditions.

Parking lot closure means that there is no vehicular access to these beaches on a temporary basis to protect public health. We understand that many Californians are eager to spend time and recreate outdoors given the public health crisis necessitating the state's Stay-at-Home Order and this policy facilitates San Diegans to enjoy beach access with reduced crowding.

This is a critical moment in California's battle against COVID-19, and Californians have stepped up to limit the spread of the virus. Temporary beach parking lot closures in San Diego County will help to ensure continued progress on limiting spread of the virus, which will expedite our process to restore important activities within our economy and communities.

Thank you very much for your ongoing collaboration and leadership during this critical time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Ghilarducci", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Crowfoot", written in a bold, cursive style.

WADE CROWFOOT
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency